

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RYKER WADA
DIRECTOR

JASON MINAMI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 28, 2019

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
For Hearing on Thursday, March 7, 2019
3:30 p.m., Conference Room 224

Governor's Message 601
(WRITTEN TESTIMONY)

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

RE: Consideration and confirmation of Ryker J. Wada as Director for the Department of Human Resources and Development

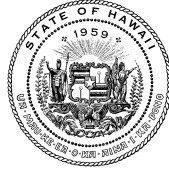
The Department of Human Resources Development's (DHRD) senior management team and program managers **strongly support** the confirmation of Ryker J. Wada as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development ("DHRD").

Ryker has over 17 years of human resources background and experience, including experience in public sector labor relations. As Deputy Director of DHRD since January 2017 and Director from January 2018, Ryker has demonstrated his passion and commitment to doing all he can to ensure that DHRD provides high quality services to our State employees and the public. He is intelligent, hard-working, collaborative, and has terrific people skills. As a supervisor, Ryker has shown himself to be very approachable, supportive/appreciative of his staff, and genuinely concerned about everyone's well-being.

We have no hesitation in stating that Ryker is a great choice as DHRD Director, and we respectfully urge this Committee to support his confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
AUDREY HIDANO, DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019, 3:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 601

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **RYKER WADA**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

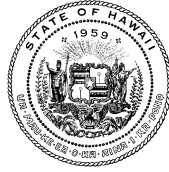
Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 601. I strongly support the nomination of **MR. RYKER WADA** to the position of Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

I've known Mr. Wada since January 2017 in his capacity as DHRD Deputy Director and recently as Director of DHRD. He has an extensive public service background as shown in his resume to be previously employed at Department of Education, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and the House of Representatives.

Mr. Wada's attorney background and experience would be an asset to the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CURT T. OTAGURO
COMPTROLLER
AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
CURT T. OTAGURO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
MARCH 7, 2019, 3:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224, STATE CAPITOL

G.M. 601
SUBMITTING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYKER WADA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

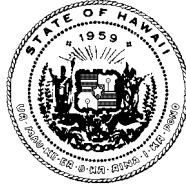
Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on G.M. 601. I support the nomination of Mr. Wada the position of Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

Mr. Wada has served as DHRD Director since January 2018 and DHRD Deputy Director since January 2017. Previously, he served as Personnel Regional Officer for the Department of Education. In addition, he served as Managing Attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii.

Mr. Wada's extensive background in public service and as an attorney makes him an ideal candidate to serve as Director of DHRD.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 2, 2019

TO: The Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **GM 601 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.**

Hearing: March 7, 2019, 03:30 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts, my name is Pankaj Bhanot and I am the current Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Department of Human Services is in strong support of GM 601 submitted by the Governor for consideration and confirmation of Mr. Ryker Wada as the Director of the Hawaii Department of Human Resources and Development (DHRD), for a term to expire at noon on December 05, 2022.

Mr. Wada has served our great Aloha State with distinction and exemplary excellence for over 18 years in various capacities in public and private sector. Ryker has the professional experience (particularly in the filed

of law and human resources), education, knowledge, skills, abilities, and the lived experience to honorably and competently serve as the Director of the DHRD. He continues to lead the DHRD in planning, organizing, directing and coordinating personnel programs and human resource management practices covering civil service and exempt positions of the State executive branch and serves as Governor's Chief Negotiator for all collective bargaining with Hawaii's public sector unions.

I have the privilege and honor of working collaboratively with Ryker and his team on various policy issues impacting Hawaii and the Department of Human Services, for example hiring strategies related to difficulties in hiring child welfare services branch (CWSB) social workers, social services aids and assistants. Ryker and his team worked with the DHS leadership and human resources staff to establish the Wiki Wiki Hire Pilot to reduce the number of steps involved, pre-identify positions and CWSB point of contacts, and train specially selected CWSB staff to conduct hiring interviews. The changes reduced the amount of time from application to interview, from 60 days or more, to approximately 2-1/2 weeks. The pilot has already resulted in 30 plus new hires at CWSB and other divisions are interested in redesigning their hiring processes. DHS is currently working with DHRD to streamline and redesign classifications, review the compensation structure, and revise minimum qualifications for critical classes of work to address the recruitment and retentions issues DHS is currently facing.

Throughout my interactions with Ryker, I found him to be a man of good moral character and integrity, knowledgeable, professional, fair, and deeply rooted in a strong belief that we must keep "Aloha Spirit" and well-being of Hawaii's public servants in our minds when we make policy and operational decisions.

I request the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture, and the Arts to unanimously confirm my dear friend and colleague Mr. Ryker Wada as the Director of the DHRD.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of GM 601.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
March 7, 2019
3:30 p.m., Room 224

In consideration of
GM 601, Ryker Wada
as the
Director of the Department of Human Resources Development

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the reappointment of Ryker Wada as the director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). Ryker has served as the director of DHRD since January 2018.

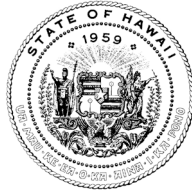
Prior to his appointment as director, Ryker served as deputy director of the department from January - December 2017. He joined DHRD after spending two years as the personnel regional officer for the Department of Education (DOE), where he was responsible for human resources and labor relations in the Windward district. Wada also worked for the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii from 2003-2015, serving as managing attorney where among other duties, he coordinated recruitment, training, development and management of staff.

Ryker has a BA from the University of Washington and his Juris Doctor from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

My administration is committed to reshaping the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. I am confident that Ryker Wada will continue to support our employees in the Department of Human Resources Development in this effort. Moving forward together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your consideration.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DOUGLAS MURDOCK
CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER

OFFICE OF ENTERPRISE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HI 96810-0119
Ph: (808) 586-6000 | Fax: (808) 586-1922
ETS.HAWAII.GOV

Testimony of
DOUGLAS MURDOCK
Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Technology Services

Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Thursday, March 14, 2019

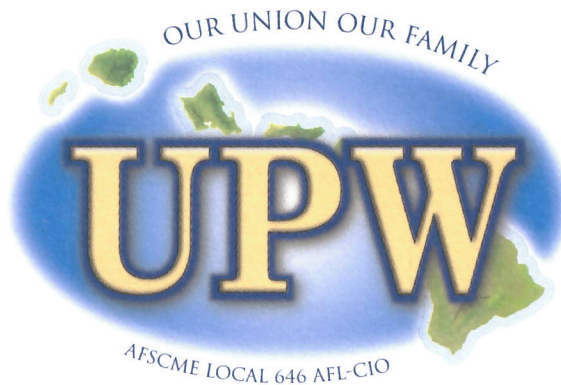
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE No. 601
Gubernatorial Nominee Ryker Wada

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the committee:

I am testifying in strong support of Mr. Ryker Wada, nominee for Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). Mr. Wada has been serving the State of Hawaii through DHRD since 2016, first serving as its deputy director and as its director since January 2018. In both positions, he worked closely with the Office of Enterprise Technology Services to review the HR implications of many departmental information technology projects.

Mr. Wada has worked in both the legislative and executive branches of government, with experience in human resources and labor relations. As managing attorney for Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, among some of his duties, he coordinated recruitment, training, development, and management of staff. Through those experiences, he has gained the understanding and knowledge of labor relations and is well suited to continue to serve the State of Hawaii as its Director of DHRD.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of the nominee.



March 7, 2019

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
State Senate, State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE #601, NOMINATION OF RYKER WADA FOR
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND
DEVELOPMENT**

Dear Chairman Taniguchi & Members:

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW), AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO. The UPW is a labor organization that represents nearly 14,000 government and private sector employees in the State of Hawaii.

The purpose of the my testimony is to support the nomination and recommend the confirmation of Mr. Ryker Wada for the Director of the Department of Human Resources and Development with State of Hawaii.

As the former Deputy Director and current Director, Mr. Wada is well-respected by the members and staff of the UPW. In his capacity as Director, I have worked closely with Mr. Wada and know him to be knowledgeable and experienced in employment and collective bargaining contractual matters. Although we may have differences time-to-time on grievances and labor issues, his positions are professional and are respected by people that have worked with him on the opposite side of the table.

Mr. Wada possesses the dedication and commitment to address difficult issues related to collective bargaining and, importantly, the ability to make sound decisions. He recognizes the necessity that laws, regulations, and governance must be balanced with the needs and interests of government, the public, and employees. Mr. Wada is a responsible and responsive decision-maker who is careful to study the issues and relevant facts before making judgment.

HEADQUARTERS - 1426 North School Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914 ♦ Phone: (808) 847-2631

HAWAII - 362 East Lanikaula Street ♦ Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336 ♦ Phone: (808) 961-3424

KAUAI - 4211 Rice Street ♦ Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1325 ♦ Phone: (808) 245-2412

MAUI - 841 Kolu Street ♦ Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436 ♦ Phone: (808) 244-0815

1-866-454-4166 (Toll Free, Molokai/Lanai only)

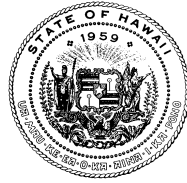
UPW Ryker Wada Ltr
March 7, 2019
Page Two

Based on his educational qualifications, his experience, and his professional working relations with the UPW, I am confident that you will find Mr. Wada qualified. Therefore, I respectfully support his nomination as Director to the Department of Human Resources Development. Please feel free to ask any questions or request further information on the UPW's recommendation of Mr. Wada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dayton M. Nakanelua". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dayton M. Nakanelua
State Director



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM601
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of
Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA, for a term to
expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

SENATOR BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS.

Hearing Date: March 7, 2019

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the nomination of Mr.
3 Wada for Director of the Hawaii Department of Human Resources Development.

4 Mr. Wada's professional accomplishments are numerous, and include experience in the private
5 sector as well as two branches of state government. Of particular note is Riker's tenure at the
6 Legal Aid of Society of Hawaii, where he pursued an agenda of fair housing and consumer
7 protection for less affluent or with a diminished voice in our community. This passion for public
8 service, combined with his talent for administration, make Riker a valued partner to improve the
9 trajectory of a modern and efficient public sector workforce.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM601.

11 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.

12



The Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Thursday, March 7, 2019
3:30 pm, Room 224

**RE: GM 601 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYKER WADA**

Attention: Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair Les Ihara, Jr. and
Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) urges the committee to **support GM 601**, the nomination of Ryker Wada to the position of Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

UHPA has had the opportunity to work with Ryker over the past four years, both in his role as Deputy Director of DHRD, and in his role as Director of DHRD and appreciate his collaborative, solution based approaches to issues that arise. His background in the private sector and Department of Education, provide a good foundation and perspective to deal with the various issues that arise in this role. We look forward to working collaboratively moving forward.

Thank you for for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support of GM 601**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman
Executive Director

**University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

**Thursday, March 7, 2019
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 601
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYKER WADA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT
NOON ON 12-05-2022.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 601 nominating Ryker Wada as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) for a term to expire at noon on December 5, 2022.

In his tenure as the former Deputy Director and current Director of DHRD, Mr. Wada has exhibited the necessary knowledge, experience, and vision to continue to propel the modernization of State government's workforce forward. The Department looks forward to working with him for another four years.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's strong support of Mr. Ryker Wada serving as the Director of DHRD.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



SCOTT T. MURAKAMI
DIRECTOR

LEONARD HOSHIJO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.labor.hawaii.gov

Phone: (808) 586-8844 / Fax: (808) 586-9099

Email: dlir.director@hawaii.gov

March 5, 2019

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair,
The Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Scott T. Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: G.M. No. 601 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of
the Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER
WADA**

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Scott T. Murakami, and I am the Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. I am testifying in support of Governor's Message 601, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryker Wada, as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

Mr. Wada has demonstrated that he has the leadership and experience to successfully lead the DHRD. As the Director of DHRD, Mr. Wada oversees the planning, directing, and coordinating of the State's personnel programs and human resource management practices as well as serves as the Chief Negotiator for all collective bargaining with the State's public sector unions. Mr. Wada's prior service as the Interim Director and Deputy Director of the DHRD show his familiarity and desire to improve the State's personnel and human resources by improving efficiencies, providing staff support, and consistently communicating and coordinating with other Departments.

I urge you to confirm Mr. Wada to serve as the Director of the DHRD so that he may continue to provide leadership and service to the public.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Wada.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President

Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President

Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer

Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS

RE: GM 601- SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS
THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, **RYKER WADA**, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON 12-05-2022

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019

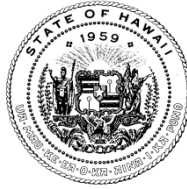
WILBERT HOLCK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Vice-Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee on Labor,
Culture and the Arts,

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) respectfully submits its written
support GM 601 in favor of confirmation for Ryker J. Wada as the Director for the
Department of Human Resources Development.

Beginning as DHRD's Deputy Director in January 2017 under then Director James
Nishimoto, and then from January 2018 as its Director, Ryker has displayed the
knowledge, leadership, temperament, skills, and abilities to lead such a complex
and yet very important Department under the Executive Branch. He also serves in
two distinct roles as he is also tasked to take on the duties and responsibilities as
the State's Chief Negotiator. While balancing two highly important and
distinctly different roles, he is still able to serve and assist all departments and
agencies in the Executive Branch, as well as, represent all jurisdictions in multi-
employer bargaining. Allowing Ryker to continue serving will allow DHRD to
advance and strengthen its high quality services and support over its human
resources functions, services, and delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. The Hawaii State Teachers
Association asks your committee to **support** this motion.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 7, 2019
3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 224

G.M. 601

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **strongly supports** Ryker Wada as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

The DOT has worked directly with Mr. Ryker for several years and have always found him to be respectful of others' point of view, thoughtful and diligent, and deeply committed to making Hawaii a better place for all. His law experience, knowledge, and insight make him an ideal DHRD Director where if he is confirmed, he will work to the utmost of his abilities to fulfill the responsibilities of his department. As an effective leader, who is modest and unassuming, his predisposition is to understand complex issues before comment or action. We have come to rely on Mr. Ryker's leadership in the recruitment, management, and retention of a high-performing workforce so that the DOT can deliver efficient and effective services that meet the public's needs. We look forward to working with him as he has given DOT close attention and active support.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE, & THE ARTS

MARCH 7, 2019
3:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 601
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, RYKER WADA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022

Chairperson Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on GM 601, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, Ryker Wada, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Mr. Wada has served as the DHRD Director since January 2018 and as the Deputy Director at DHRD during 2017. He brings a wealth of knowledge to his role as the Director to assist with government recruitment and employment across the various state departments and agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Statement of
Mike McCartney

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Thursday, March 7, 2019
3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 601
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Director, Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee.

I **support** the appointment of **Ryker Wada** to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

Mr. Wada is currently serving as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) and previously held positions as the Deputy Director of DHRD and in the Department of Education, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and as an attorney in the private sector. His legal background and experience in human resources management will benefit the department by strengthening and enforcing its mission to collaborate and address the goals and challenges facing the State of Hawaii's workforce. He is a capable leader and his service will benefit the DHRD and the people of the State of Hawaii.

For these reasons, I urge his confirmation for Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS
HEARING ON MARCH 07, 2019 AT 3:30 PM IN CR 224

IN SUPPORT OF

GM601

for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human
Resources Development
Gubernatorial Nominee, **RYKER WADA**,
for a term to expire 12-05-2022

March 07, 2019

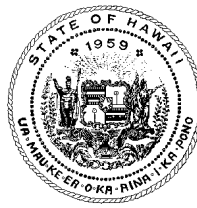
Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee:

It is an honor to provide this testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Ryker Wada as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

Mr. Wada's background, operational experience, and his tenure at the DHRD make him well-qualified for this appointment. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands works regularly with the DHRD, and we look forward to working with him for the next four years.

We respectfully ask your committee to advise and consent to this nomination, and we thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 601
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE RYKER WADA.

by

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Thursday, March 7, 2019; 3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports supports the nomination of Ryker Wada as the Director for the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD).

Director Wada has proven himself to be an effective leader in his role as the DHRD Director since assuming that position in January 2018. Prior to serving as the Director of DHRD, he served as its Deputy Director. He also worked for the Department of Education as a Personnel Regional Officer where he was responsible for human resources and labor relations. His training as an attorney and work experience on human resources and labor relations are an asset to the State of Hawaii.

In his current capacity as DHRD Director, Director Wada has shown that he can successfully execute DHRD's mission to provide timely and responsive leadership, resources, and services to fully support the State in the recruitment, management and retention of a high-performing workforce. PSD staff has had

the opportunity and privilege of collaborating with DHRD on important projects under Director Wada's leadership, including finding creative ways to recruit and retain State employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO

1018 PALM DRIVE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96814-1929

TELEPHONE (808) 949-1566 FAX: (808) 952-6003

WEBSITE: www.hawaiifirefighters.org

THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2019
March 7, 2019

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

Governor's Message 601 Consideration and Confirmation of Ryker Wada
Director, Department of Human Resources Development

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO, represents more than 1,900 professional active-duty fire fighters throughout the State. The HFFA, on behalf of all of our members, **supports Governor's Message 601** nominating Ryker Wada to serve as Director of Human Resources Development.

Mr. Wada was an integral member of the Employers' group in the HFFA's recently concluded contract arbitration proceedings. His professionalism, candor, and commitment to uphold the integrity of the arbitration process is greatly appreciated

HFFA supports Mr. Wada's nomination to serve as Director of Human Resources Development and appreciates your Committee's favorable consideration of Governor's Message 601. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF DAMIEN ELEFANTE
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019 3:30 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

GOV. MSG NO. 601

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYKER WADA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and members of the Committee. I am testifying as an individual and I am in strong support of Ryker Wada's confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

During his time at the Department of Human Resources Development he has developed an administrative understanding and knowledge of the department. During his time at department, he has been working steadily to implement efficiency and improvements in certain process and procedures. He has an extensive background in human resources and labor relations. His overall background and experiences working in the public and private sector is an asset and resource for the State. In his current capacity, he has been cooperative, helpful, and informative.

I urge you to support the confirmation of Ryker Wada as the Director of Human Resources Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY BY
RODERICK K. BECKER
AND
ROBERT YU

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 601

Thursday, March 7, 2019
3:30 p.m.
Room 224

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RYKER WADA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE AT NOON ON 12-05-2022.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee:

We strongly support Ryker Wada's appointment to the position of Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). We are working with Mr. Wada in our professional capacities as Director and Deputy Director of Finance, respectively.

Governor Ige's administration is committed to addressing the many issues facing our state in a direct and forthright manner. We strive to do the right thing, the right way to achieve our shared goal of a healthy, sustainable economy to support our keiki, our kupuna, and the disadvantaged.

Mr. Wada is an integral part of a team that is committed to achieving the goals of this administration in an honest, transparent, accountable, and responsive manner.

Mr. Wada currently serves as the director at DHRD since January 2018, prior to that he has been in various positions with the State which includes personnel regional officer at the Department of Education and deputy director at DHRD. Mr. Wada's work experience and knowledge of human resources will benefit DHRD and the State; therefore, we support confirmation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

GM-601

Submitted on: 3/4/2019 9:31:56 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/7/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ty Nohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY OF JO ANN UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Thursday, March 7, 2019 3:30 PM
Conf. Rm 224

G.M. 601

**Testimony in support of Governor's Message No. 601
Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the
Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA
for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022**

TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE LES IHARA, JR., VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am writing to express my strong **support** of the appointment of RYKER WADA to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022. My name is Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi and I am submitting this supporting testimony in my personal capacity.

I have had the opportunity to interact with Ryker Wada for several years while he was the Managing Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii on consumer law, foreclosure and predatory lending issues, and in his role as Deputy Director and as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development. He has always been collaborative and helpful in addressing issues of mutual concern. Director Wada is intelligent and hardworking, and is an individual who has the temperament, experience, ability and wisdom to effectively represent the Department of Human Resources Development.

I believe Mr. Wada is and will continue to be a valuable public servant and an asset to the administration and to the state, and respectfully request that you recommend advise and consent of his nomination as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 601.

Testimony to the Senate Committee on
Labor, Culture and the Arts

The Thirtieth Legislature
Regular Session of 2019

Wednesday, March 7, 2019
3:30 p.m.

Testimony on **Governor's Message No. 601**, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation as the **Director of the Department of Human Resources Development**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **Ryker Wada**, for a Term to Expire on December 5, 2022.

To the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair, the Honorable Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am writing in **support** of the appointment of Ryker Wada to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, for a term to expire on December 5, 2022.

Over the last two years, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Wada, who prior to being appointed as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, served as its Deputy Director. As both the deputy director and director for Human Resources Development, I observed Mr. Wada to be open to feedback and helpful on matters that involved assistance to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Mr. Wada is a competent, thoughtful, and hard-working public servant who has demonstrated he possesses the skills and temperament needed to lead the Department of Human Resources Development.

I firmly believe Mr. Wada will continue to be a valued and highly productive member of Governor Ige's cabinet, and respectfully request that you recommend approval of his nomination as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to support G.M. No. 601. I would be pleased to respond to any questions that you may have.

TESTIMONY BY DEREK MIZUNO
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
GM 601
RELATING TO CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
RYKER WADA

March 7, 2019

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in SUPPORT of Ryker Wada as the director of the Department of Human Resources Development. I have worked with Mr. Wada in my position as EUTF Administrator since his appointment to the EUTF Board in May 2018. In his short time on the Board, Mr. Wada has displayed, when confronted with decisions before the Board, an ability to consider both the short- and long-term financial impact and to balance financial impact with health improvement. Additionally, when addressing personnel matters, Mr. Wada looks to find ways to assist the organization while protecting and furthering the rights of the employees and is open to different ideas.

I believe that Mr. Wada's experience as well as his deep passion for serving the citizens of the State will bring significant value to the Department of Human Resources Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Statement of
Mary Alice Evans

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Thursday, March 7, 2019
3:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
GM 601

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022.

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara and Members of the Committee.

I respectfully urge your **strong support** for the confirmation of **Ryker Wada** to serve as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

I have had the pleasure of working with Ryker while he was the Deputy Director and Director of the Department of Human Resources Development. He has helped DBEDT with HR solutions that respect the Merit System and collective bargaining contracts. He knows the department's dedicated and experienced employees and has earned their trust.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of the nomination of Ryker Wada for Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

March 5, 2019

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Committee members,

I write in strong support of Ryker Wada's nomination as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

I have known Ryker for about eight (8) years. I am the CEO of the YMCA of Honolulu and for a number of years, Ryker served on the Y's Metro Board of Directors as well as the Board Governance Committee. So, I have direct personal experience with Ryker.

Ryker is bright, hardworking, ethical, and fair. He also cares deeply about Hawaii and its people.

I humbly request that you vote to confirm Ryker Wada.

Mahalo.

Michael Broderick
President & CEO

GM-601

Submitted on: 3/6/2019 11:54:42 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/7/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sean Sanada	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts. My name is Sean Sanada, and I am the Chief Administrative Officer for the Oahu Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation. One of my key duties in this position is supervision of the Oahu Region's Human Resources Department. In this capacity, I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Wada on several occasions regarding collective bargaining and other important labor and employment issues. I found Mr. Wada to be very humble and passionate about his responsibilities. More importantly, I also found Mr. Wada to be an excellent communicator who is straightforward, honest and trustworthy. I believe that these attributes are extremely valuable and necessary for the position of DHRD Director. Accordingly, I strongly support Mr. Wada's confirmation. He served the position well during the Administration's prior term and I believe that he will continue to be an asset.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: March 6, 2019

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair, Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Gary Slovin

RE: **GM 601 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. Hearing Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. Conference Room: 224**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts:

I submit this testimony in very strong support of Ryker Wada's nomination to be the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

I have known Ryker for a very long time, going back to his time in high school and through his career. Accordingly I have observed him in many different roles. Consistent throughout that time has been his integrity, his dedication and his concern for and generosity toward others. He works hard and is diligent, but he is also creative. I believe he has the qualities that will make him an excellent Director just as those qualities have enabled him to excel in everything else he has done. In the time Ryker has served he has demonstrated his leadership qualities. I am very pleased to support his nomination.



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

LATE

DATE: March 7, 2019

TO: Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair, Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Submitted Via Capitol Website

FROM: Rick Tsujimura

RE: **GM 601 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development, Gubernatorial Nominee, RYKER WADA, for a term to expire at noon on 12-05-2022. Hearing Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. Conference Room: 224**

Dear Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts:

I write in **support** of the nomination of Ryker Wada's appointment as the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD). My wife and I have known Ryker for many years and know his parents very well, as well as his wife Vanessa.

Ryker is a committed and diligent public servant and will contribute much to the state in his position. He is an honest and intelligent person, who has the best interest of the people of Hawaii in his heart.

I remember first meeting Ryker when he was at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and have been impressed with his progress as an attorney and as a manager. I believe he will do a great job at DHRD and strongly support his appointment, and ask for your positive consent to his nomination.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

DAMIEN A. ELEFANTE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 221
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
<http://tax.hawaii.gov/>
Phone: (808) 587-1540 / Fax: (808) 587-1560
Email: Tax.Directors.Office@hawaii.gov

To: The Honorable Brian Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 224, State Capitol

From: Linda Chu Takayama, Director
Department of Taxation

Re: GM 601 Ryker Wada

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Linda Chu Takayama, Director of the Department of Taxation, and I am testifying in strong support of Ryker Wada's confirmation as Director of the Department of Human Resources Development.

As an attorney with extensive experience in the law, government and human resources, he is well suited to direct the programs and policies affecting the State's 47,000 employees. He is fair and respectful to the needs and rights of the workers, while recognizing the operational requirements of management.

The State would be well served by your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of his confirmation.

GM-601

Submitted on: 3/7/2019 7:21:41 AM

Testimony for LCA on 3/7/2019 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nalani Fujimori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Ryker Wada's confirmation as the Director of Human Resources, I provide this testimony in my individual capacity and also apologize for the late submission of this testimony,

I had the opportunity to work with Ryker at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii. I found him to be a skilled advocate and thoughtful in his approach to solve client issues and work with staff that he supervised. During his time at Legal Aid he was also a member of our Management Team and I'm this capacity provided insightful counsel on creating strategies and solving problems.

I believe that you will find Ryker honest and diligent, both qualities that are important in any Department Director.

Thank for this opportunity to testify in support of his confirmation.

Aloha,

Nalani Fujimori Kaina